

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EPA-04 EUR-12 CEQ-01 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-11

NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /105 W  
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O R 160156Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 7717

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2012

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD, AS

SUBJECT: FLUOROCARBONS AND PCBS IN THE OECD

REF: STATE 055080, STATE 048565

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED U.S. POSITIONS ON FLUOROCARBONS AND PCBS WITH G. GRESFORD, SCIENCE ADVISOR, DFA AND WITH CARRUTHERS OF DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS.

2. GRESFORD SAID THAT GOA VIEWS ON NECESSARY OECD ACTION ON FLUOROCARBONS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THOSE OF U.S. INSTRUCTIONS TO AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE ON OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY BEEN TRANSMITTED WHEN OUR MESSAGE ARRIVED, BUT GRESFORD STATED THEY VIRTUALLY AGREED WITH EVERY WORD OUR POSITION. DFA PROMISED CABLE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION EVENING MARCH 15 TO INFORM THEM OF EXTENT TO WHICH OUR APPROACH MESHED WITH THEIRS AND TO SUGGEST THEY CONSULT WITH USDEL.

3. RE PCBS, GOA ALSO ESSENTIALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH POINTS RAISED IN STATE 055080. GRESFORD ADMITTED THAT AUSTRALIA COULD NOT ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA. 4 OF STATE UNCLASSIFIED

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055080. AUSTRALIA IMPORTS ALL ITS PCBS. AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS

REGULATIONS REQUIRE SPECIFIC MINISTERIAL APPROVAL FOR IMPORTATION OF PCBS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING THEM. PROBLEMS ARISE DUE TO FACT THAT THE MANY ISOMERS OF PCBS MARKETING UNDER WIDE VARIETY OF COMMERCIAL NAMES, AND THEIR PRESENCE IS NOT ALWAYS CLEARLY INDICATED ON PRODUCT. THIS MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES ADEQUATELY CONTROL IMPORTS.

4. ABOUT A YEAR AGO THE AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL AUTHORIZED CONSULTANTS STUDY ON WHOLE PROBLEM OF PCBS. THIS STUDY TO BE DISCUSSED BY COUNCIL THIS WEEK. REPORT, HOWEVER, CONTAINS INFORMATION OF COMMERCIALLY CONFIDENTIAL NATURE AND CANNOT BE RELEASED TO OECD UNTIL IT IS EDITED TO PROTECT THIS INFORMATION.

5. GOA APPROVES IDEA OF CALL FOR CONSULTATION ON PCBS, BUT IN VIEW OF TIGHT CONTROL ON TRAVEL BY CANBERRA-BASED PUBLIC SERVANTS, THEY BELIEVE CONSULTATION SHOULD BE TIED TO NEXT MEETING OF CHEMICAL COMMITTEE.

6. AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING BEING HEADED BY H.J. HIGGS, DEPUTY SECRETARY, DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT.  
HARGROVE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** SENV, AS, US, OECD  
**To:** OECD PARIS STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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